

Stakeholder group:

community member

Are you of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin?

No

Do you consent to your submission being made public?

No

The current NSW Koala Strategy

1. Do you think the goal of doubling the number of koalas in New South Wales by 2050 provides a sound foundation for the NSW Government's approach to koala conservation into the future? If not, what do you think the goal should be?

Honestly it sounds like a fairy tale, doubling the number of Koalas by 2050. The present short term goal should be that their numbers not reduce / go down past what they are now which is a critical level.

Unfortunately the reality in nsw is we will be lucky to have a quarter of the current population by 2050.

If the government is serious about protecting Koalas & increasing their numbers then the ALP government while they are in power need to strengthen the EPA laws, re right them because they are not working to protect any of our endangered & critically endangered birds and animals.

The environmental minister Penny Sharpe needs to prove that she as the environmental minister is on the side of the environment & not propping up the nsw forestry industry with tax payer money.

The bottom line is if the environmental minister doesn't yet realise that its Removal of Habitat that is the major force in the acceleration of the extinction process, maybe she shouldn't be the environmental minister.

2. In your area of expertise, what gaps do you think there are in the Strategy?

Removal of critical habitat via logging and not being imaginative with housing, developments need to have restrictions on removal of trees and habitat.

Prioritising koala populations

3. Are the current categories of strongholds, populations for immediate investment and populations to fill knowledge gaps the right ones for koala conservation? Are there other important koala populations that should be identified for conservation management?

How many times do normal everyday citizen scientists and professionals ecologists have to point the fact out that logging is destroying the majority of thriving Koala hubs within the proposed GKNP forestry don't leave corridors for Koalas to get from one little hub to the next with bare earth inbetween not a tree standing, then there's the chemical poisoning on top of the clear felling. Protecting ONLY 5% of the existing koala hubs is a recipe for total extinction. That would be a lasting legacy for the ALP government,

I am absolutely disgusted, I actually don't have words to adequately describe my current feelings. It is so disappointing to have voted a government in because we believed they would be a saviour of our environment after the decade of water downs and non existent EPA laws and what have we got ? The same but under a different banner.

The importance of Aboriginal ecological knowledge to koala conservation

4. How could a revised Strategy further empower Aboriginal communities? What, if any, are barriers in the current framework?

Unquestionably it is at the top of the list of importance. It is insulting to First Nations People to not use their knowledge which has been gathered and passed down through the generations, Australian governments need to stop thinking and treating Australia and Australian soil, flora and fauna as European, it isn't and continuing to do so will effect our water & water quality, our air and air quality, our disrespect for First Nations People and their knowledge is madness.

Addressing the impacts of climate change

5. How do you think the NSW Government can more effectively identify and protect climate refuges in a revised Strategy?

The nsw government needs to stop thinking short term and have some vision, long term the carbon credits the stopping of logging in old growth forests is greater and worth more that the loss of our old growth trees, trees that have taken over a 100 years to grow been cut down for what ? They are costing the government money and in the process destroying our environment, our very fragile eco system. Please talk to real independent experts and on the ground local ecologists. There views and valuable information will overlap and there's your answer.

6. What support should the NSW Government provide to koala populations in areas we know will be subject to serious climate change impacts?

What a stupid question, I would imagine a kindergarten child could tell you the answer STOP cutting down their feed and habit trees and instead get forestry to replant all the clear fell bald huge areas inside the remaining old growth forests with bio diverse trees.

7. How could a revised strategy support better adaptive responses to climate change?

The waste and piles of dead unwanted trees even in nsw forestry plantations is a fire hazard, and then when the nswfc deliberately set fire to the mountains of wasted unwanted cleared trees they are adding to the pollution, billowing Black smoke for weeks on end, then to really destroy the earth the use poison, so no trees to clean the air no water because theirs no trees and pollution and more pollution, destruction and destruction. TU nsw government.

Pillar 1: Protecting koala habitat

8. Do you think the combination of habitat acquisition, private land conservation, and habitat restoration is the right approach to protecting important koala habitat? What else should the NSW Government be doing to protect koala habitat?

Yes definitely as you said the combination of habitat acquisition, private land conservation & habitat restoration is the only approach but the only way to save and protect and preserve our current numbers of Koalas, Glyders and Glossy Bkack Cockatoos to mention the most critically endangered species on the mid north coast is to Stop logging in the state forests, they are been decimated, destroyed forever. These forests have taken 100's of years to grow and the nsw government through nswfc are removing them off the face of the earth in a second. The government would be better using the tax payers money to pay farmers on low lying land to plant plantations of Blackbutt for forestry use, it would be money well spent.

9. How can landholders be better supported to protect, restore and enhance koala habitat on their land? What are the barriers?

The main problem with clearing on private land is when the Inp government watered down the EPA effectively allowing the wholesale clearing of trees from private land. Farmers need to be re-educated in this country and change their mind set from clearing to planting. Even dairy farms and definitely cattle and sheep farms can benefit and the animals thrive if they have tree cover eg the New Forest in England the farms in Ireland, you don't have to look to Europe but New Zealand.

10. How can landholders be supported to participate in natural capital markets and other opportunities that drive improved outcomes for koalas?

I should have to repeat myself and any person with a brain will know if governments invest my paying farmers to plant cash crops / plantations of Blackbutt on their unproductive land of which there is a lot of overused and depleted & now unproductive cleared land which could be planted as a cash crop for forestry. This would be a win win for farmers, forestry workers and our forests and our environment. And our ALP government.

11. How can the NSW Government better support local councils to identify and protect koala habitat?

Firstly by strengthening the EPA laws in relation to logging in state forests and removal and lopping of trees on council / public land, strengthen the EPA laws on logging and removal of Koala habitat on private land and farm land. Give councils incentives to reforest cleared land.

Pillar 2: Supporting local communities to conserve koalas

12. Do you think the regional partnership model is effective for delivering on-ground koala conservation actions? Do you know who the regional partnership is in your area?

All I know is citizens and conservation groups are in despair & have been calling for the Minns government to listen to their concerns and Stop the logging by nswfc in nsw state forests but especially the old growth forests. The government needs too at the very least, Stop logging while The Great Koala National Park is been planned with a Stop to logging in all Not just 5% of the Koala Hubs but all the Koala hubs with a definite and substantial corridor established between Koala hubs.

It is unbelievable to leave it as it is with a little hub here and another kilometres away, that is what seems to be the plan at the moment. Just how are the Koalas to get from one little hub to another, do we then need a Koala bus service to transport the Koalas safely from one clump of feed trees to the next.

13. Are there any threats or issues specific to your region that should be given more attention to?

The main threat is logging and the weak / non existing EPA laws.

The main threat is logging, if the government is serious about having Koalas in nsw something has to be changed and hard and very necessary environmental decisions need to be made by the ALP government, not just lip service but actual change for the survival of our biggest tourism draw card and for the survival of our iconic native animals and beautiful birds. Stop the logging and you save so much more than the Koala but most of the other critically endangered species.

14. How can the NSW Government work better with philanthropic and business partners to leverage investment to deliver outcomes at the local level?

If The Great Koala National Park was up and running there would be philanthropic and businesses interested.

Pillar 3: Improving the safety and health of koalas

15. What else can the NSW Government do to better mitigate vehicle strike?

Stop approving developments where there are know Koaka hubs but again the main reason the Koala is critically endangered is because of logging.

16. What can the NSW Government do to better support the wildlife carer sector?

Is this a real question? Obviously fund them.

If the logging stopped the Koalas would have a safe place in the forest to thrive,

17. What measures should the NSW Government be taking to address koala disease, including chlamydia?

Again if the Koalas have a healthy environment they will be healthier.

Stop the logging in our native forests.

18. How could the NSW Government improve the koala translocation program to ensure conservation outcomes are met?

To translocate healthy koalas you need a healthy habitat for them and healthy happy koalas, the koalas in nsw, whether it be western Sydney, the mid north coast, the northern nsw, western nsw, southern nsw the Koalas have the same problems the same causes and the same solutions, STOP the logging STOP the removal of there feed trees, there habitat for developments in their habitat.

19. How can the NSW Government better protect koalas and their habitat in response to hazard reduction burning and bushfires?

The removal of big mature over 100 year old trees and leaving piles of smaller trees the canopies, the waste material after logging is a major part of the fire problem also it is a scientist fact that young saplings are fuel for fires and the massive clearing cause the land to dry out, without the mature trees and the rainforest environments in the gullies these natural fire breaks are not wet, damp or dense enough to work as a fire break.

The huge fire which caused so much damage to the forest (still evident today) to homes, property and death, animal and human were caused by nswfc not listening to locals and doing burning which got out of control. It's the same arrogance, the same mistakes over and over again, nothing gets learned. Listen to independent advice.

20. How can the NSW Government improve emergency coordination with koala carers, vets and other partner organisations during a bushfire or extreme weather event?

Listen to the people in charge of these organisations, people on the ground, fund them, stop wasting money and listen to the people.

Pillar 4: Building our knowledge

21. What do you see as the most critical knowledge gaps in understanding the distribution and relative abundance of koalas across New South Wales?

I'm not sure where the government thinks there are an abundance of Koalas in nsw, we on the mid north coast do not have many. We use to but numbers have been going steeply downwards between due to the 2019 bush fires which forests are still recovering from and logging, logging, logging and clearing & clearing.

The most critical knowledge gap is the government not listening, the government not re strengthening the EPA laws, the constant logging and clearing even on private property.

If the government doesn't care then the landowners don't care.

22. What changes should be made to the koala research plan to ensure it delivers research that directly benefits koala conservation?

What is the point of research if there are no koalas and or if there are little pockets of koalas but no or not enough habitat.

23. What data do you need to effectively carry out koala conservation work? What changes would you recommend to how the NSW Government manages koala data?

Honestly there is so much data from ecologists and citizen scientists, If the Minns government doesn't have enough data by now to make a very obvious decision which will save the species, I give up.

Additional comments

Do you have any other comments or feedback?

Please work hard at changing and strengthening our Environmental Protection Laws in relation to logging on private property & forestry.